

USSN 10/089,589
Atty. Docket No. 2001-0122-01

REMARKS

Claims 24-29 are pending in the above captioned application. Claims 24-29 stand rejected. Claims 24-29 have been cancelled.

Claims 24-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, since they fail to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter.

Claims 24-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Otto, et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,828,277, Dorkin U.S. Patent No. 5,771,259 or JP 01-154-577.

Applicants totally disagree with the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, and believe that, if actually required, clarifying amendments could be made without narrowing the claims any more than the claims have been narrowed in co-pending application, U.S. Application No. 10/684,016, Attorney Docket No. 2001-0088-07, which is a Divisional application of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/953,026, filed on September 13, 2001, Attorney Docket No. 2001-0088-01.

In addition, applicants totally disagree with the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), e.g., since the references say nothing about a "porous insulating layer" on the electrode or that the "porous insulating layer" defines a "discharge region" and a number of other recitations in the dependent claims.

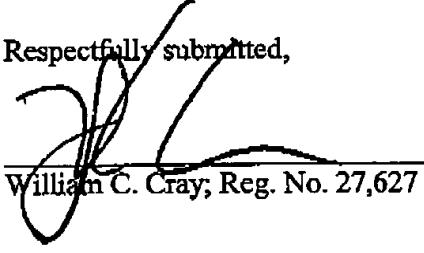
The claims are cancelled here solely because substantially identical claims were restricted out of the above referenced co-pending application's parent (09/953,026) and are currently being prosecuted in the co-pending divisional, with clarifying amendments as to the definition of "porous," which resulted in the allowance of apparatus claims in the parent application.

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CONCLUSION

Claims 24-29 have been cancelled since prosecution of these claims is moot in light of the prosecution of essentially the identical claims in the above referenced Divisional of Serial No. 09/953,026.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 8, 2003
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